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Pentagon Obstructionism

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Today, the people of America find themselves at war against the most numerous and the most brutal enemy that any civilized nation has ever faced – the *only* enemy that has ever seriously threatened the lives of every man, woman, and child in America; the *only* enemy that has ever posed a serious threat to the continued existence of the republic. But the enemy combatant in this war is unlike any we have ever faced before. The enemy we face today does not wear a uniform, he does not represent a nation state, he moves freely from country to country, he travels aboard our trains and planes, and he lives and works among us, in our cities, towns, and villages. He may be a student, a schoolteacher, a truck driver, a doctor, or a lawyer. But on any given day he may be the driver of a Ryder truck filled with explosives, the shopper standing next to us in a mall with explosives strapped to his body, or the school bus driver with a bomb hidden beneath his seat.

In a conflict such as this the most critical weapons we can have are not nuclear weapons, high performance aircraft, great warships, or massive numbers of tanks and infantry. The most important weapon we can have in this war is information, solid actionable intelligence.

So what if someone were to tell you that a technology called Computerized Voice Stress Analysis (CVSA), the most important new development in the science of truth verification, is being denied to intelligence specialists in Iraq, Afghanistan, Guantanamo, and elsewhere by policy directive from the Pentagon?

Apparently unaware that high level Pentagon officials were strongly biased against CVSA, but recognizing the need for a truth-detection device that could be used in battlefield regimes where polygraph use is impractical, the Pentagon Special Operations Command (SOCOM) conducted a study to determine the state-of-the-art of CVSA. The study showed that CVSA is now being successfully used as an important crime fighting tool by more than 1,400 state and local police organizations across the country."

When asked why they had abandoned the polygraph in favor of CVSA, police organizations replied that: a) it is more reliable, b) it is less expensive, c) it is more user-friendly, and d) unlike the polygraph, it does not require the cooperation of the individual being interrogated. Yet, a few senior officials in the Pentagon, including officials in the DoD Polygraph Institute (DoDPI), an organization with a vested interest in the continued use of the polygraph, have systematically blocked the use of CVSA technology in a broad range of military intelligence applications."

Finding the technology to be highly popular in civilian law enforcement, SOCOM applied for funding to study the effectiveness of a miniaturized version of the CVSA laptop, manufactured by the National Institute for Truth Verification (NITV) of West Palm Beach, Florida. The result of that developmental effort is the hand-held Field Interrogation Support Tool (FIST), an interrogation tool that is now denied to field commanders by official DoD policy.

In a June 8, 2005 memorandum to Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA), Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence, Stephen A. Cambone, disclosed that he was the author of an August 26, 2004 policy directive. He said, "until the accuracy of other technologies could be supported by independent scientific research, the polygraph is the only instrument approved in the DoD for use as a credibility assessment tool."

According to a December 15, 2005 investigative report in *The American Spectator*, when Army and Marine Corps interrogators attended a CVSA training session at Camp As-Sayliyah, Qatar,

in the fall of 2005, all were required to sign off on an August 28, 2005 Pentagon memorandum barring the use of CVSA technology in interrogations.

This in spite of the fact that CVSA is officially designated as an export-restricted technology under 15 CFR, Part 774, Section 3A981, Commerce and Foreign Trade Regulations of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

In his letter to Senator Santorum, Undersecretary Cambone also indicated that he had initiated an "independent" study by the University of Florida to assess the reliability of VSA. However, *The American Spectator* learned, and the Pentagon has confirmed, that the University of Florida study was being conducted under the supervision of Dr. John Capps, the brother of Michael Capps, former director of the DoD Polygraph Institute.

In the global War on Terror, it is absolutely essential that we utilize every available weapon capable of subduing the enemy and saving the lives of Americans. To forego the deployment of a critical interrogation tool that is inexpensive, fast, effective, and user-friendly – for no better reason than to satisfy the whims and biases of one or two senior Pentagon bureaucrats – is unconscionable and irresponsible.